

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are currently pending in the present application.

The Applicants wish to express appreciation for the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 4, 14, 21-22, 24 and 33-35 contain patentable subject matter. The Applicant has amended the claims to place independent claims 2, 14 and 24 into independent form, and amended claims 16 and 30 to incorporate the features of objected-to-but-allowable claims 21 and 33, respectively. Conforming amendments have been made to claims 7, 15 and 34 and claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 11, 13, 21, 23 and 33 have been canceled. Thus, claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 14-20, 22, 24-32 and 34-35 remain pending in the present application.

Response to the Pending Rejections:

Rejections Under § 112, First Paragraph: Claims 5-7 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph on the grounds the specification does not enable stripping away the protective film using the heating device. The Applicants have amended claims 6-7 and 25 to recite that the protective film is removed before softening of the adhesive layer by the heating device.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under § 112, Second Paragraph: Claims 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite for failing to properly limit their parent claims. The Applicants have amended claim 8 to depend from claim 7 rather than claim 5, as claim 7 recites (via its amended dependency from claim 4) the storage container discussed in claim 8. Similarly, because claims 9, 11 and

13 depend from a claim without a storage container limitation (claim 6), these claim have been cancelled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending § 112, first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under § 103(a): Claims 1, 3, 8-13, 15-20, 23, 26-29 and 30-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicant's stated prior art and U.S. Patent No. 6,355,127 to Mahdi, *et al.* ("Mahdi"). In view of the foregoing amendments, the § 103(a) rejections have been rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants submit claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12, 14-20, 22, 24-32 and 34-35 are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for these claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

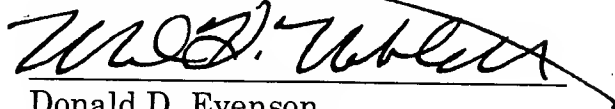
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Donald D. Evenson", is written over a horizontal line.

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